CLAY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT.

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

by

N. K. SPARROW, L.R.C.P. & S.I.
District Medical Officer of Health.

CLAY CROSS,
Jos. Spriggs, Alma Printing Works, Holmgate Road,
1926.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The Urban District of Clay Cross consists of a small mining town and its surrounding 1467 acres, situated in the north of the Derbyshire Coalfield. It stands high on a ridge overlooking pits and ironworks on the one side and country on the other. A new light railway has now invaded the countryside, passing through the little farm holdings, connecting Ashover to Clay Cross. This new enterprise may mean more work.

The climate is rigorous and one especially unfavourable to recovery from respiratory diseases. Our respiratory death rate is 3·74, which is high.

Population.

In 1921:	in 1925:
Census, 8,686.	9,338 (estimated).

Number of inhabited houses	in 1920:	in 1925:
	1,807.	1,863.

Rateable value: £24,180.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £76/14/-.

Number of families	in 1921:	in 1925:
	1,817;	estimated about 2,000.

The Poor rate stands at 9/6 in the £

The District rate stands at 8/- in the £

The amount of Poor Law relief given in 1925 was £6,124/19/3.

Social Conditions.

The mines and ironworks provide the chief means of employment. In 1925 the mines did not work full time and the men did not earn much, consequently the standard of living was lowered.

The people are of strong physique. They marry young, setting up house with the parents when there are no houses available.

Vital Statistics.

Births: 244, giving a rate of 26·12.
Compare England and Wales 18·3.

Deaths: 145, giving a rate of 15·52.
Compare England and Wales 12·2.

Infantile deaths: 19, giving a rate of 77·8.
Compare England and Wales 75·0.

These rates are more satisfactory than last year, when we had the second highest birth-rate and the highest infantile death rate in the county. Now we have the highest birth rate but take the eighth place out of twenty-five Urban Districts for infantile mortality.

Out of 145 deaths, the respiratory death-rate was 3·74, and the total rate of 15·52 puts us in the 22nd place out of the 25 Urban Districts.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The Council paid £424 Precept to the North Derbyshire Hospitals, and for maintenance of patients suffering from scarlet fever, diphtheria and tuberculosis £77/16/0 was paid. The maintenance of the forty-six smallpox patients removed to hospital cost £159/6/0.

Hospitals available for the Clay Cross Area.

1. TUBERCULOSIS :
   Walton : Distance from Clay Cross 5 miles.
   Penmore Pavilion : Distance from Clay Cross 5 miles.
2. MATERNITY : Chesterfield Maternity : Distance 5 miles.
3. CHILDREN : There is no special Children's Hospital but wards are set apart for children in the Chesterfield Royal Hospital : Distance 5 miles.
4. FEVER :
   Morton : Distance from Clay Cross 2 miles.
   Langwith : Distance from Clay Cross 8½ miles.
   Mastin Moor : Distance from Clay Cross 11 miles.
   Dronfield : Distance from Clay Cross 11 miles.
5. SMALLPOX :
   Spital : Distance from Clay Cross 5 miles.

None of these are within the Clay Cross district.

There is no Institution for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children within the area.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Fever Hospitals send their own ambulance to remove fever cases.

(b) Two motor ambulances are provided by the Clay Cross Co. There are three stretcher stations in Clay Cross.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE : Church Schools, use of four rooms, provided by the County Council. Doctor and Health Visitor in attendance every Wednesday afternoon.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC : Church Schools every Wednesday morning, with Health Visitor in attendance.

School Clinics held at Elementary Schools, Clay Cross, for Eye, Ear, Throat, etc., by a School Medical Officer provided by the County Council.

Tuberculosis Dispensary held at Brimington Road, Chesterfield, provided by the County Council. X-Ray. 1st & 3rd Mondays.

Venereal Diseases. Clinics are held at the Chesterfield Royal Hospital on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. N. K. Sparrow, L.R.C.P. & S.I., part-time, salary £40 p.a.

Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. W. A. T. Lynam, A.R.S.I. certificate, whole time, salary £200 p a.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. One district nurse supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

(b) Infectious Diseases, such as measles, etc.: No special nurse except in epidemics, when one has been engaged if required.

Midwives.

Three midwives are practising in the district without subsidy.

Legislation.

Bye-laws. The Clay Cross Council adopted the following :

1910 Public Health Act	Part ii, sect. 30--33
	Part iii, entire section
	Part iv, entire section
	Part v, entire section
Public Health Amendment Act	Part ii, sect. 30--33
	Part iii, entire section
	Part iv, entire section
	Part v, entire section

When a case of Smallpox occurs in the neighbourhood the town is billed urging vaccination. In the epidemic of fifty-two cases, bandbills of warning were distributed from door to door. These contained directions as to immediate notification of rash, etc.

WATER.

This is in the hands of the Council, and is obtained from three sources—Springs, a Bore Hole and a Brook.

1. Woferly Springs: piped direct to the tank.

2. Bore Hole, containing iron: piped direct to the tank; the iron removed by weirs and sand filters.

3. Grinders Well, pure: piped to the Bore Hole Main and piped to the works in the bore hole pipe.

The brook is drawn on as little as possible.

The supply is constant, allowing twelve gallons per head per day, except in times of drought. The sufficiency is not enough to convert all the privies into water-closets. Plans for a new reservoir are now in the hands of the Ministry of Health. This new scheme will enable all the privies to be converted.

Quality of the Water. The spring water was recently tested and found to be pure. The water from the Press brook contained organic matter.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two outfalls, one at Bacon Springs, the other at Danesmoor. These consist of settling tank, filter and land. The septic tanks hold twenty-four hours dry weather flow. The sewage is distributed over filter beds by revolving arms and the filter beds are on the intermittent system. The last report on the effluent stated that Danesmoor was good and Bacon Springs satisfactory.

Closet Accomodation.

In 1920 there were 1080 privies, now there still remain 1060. In 1920 there were 727 water-closets, now there are 776.

Scavenging.

This is done by the Council, except for the Danesmoor district. Sheeted lorries and carts are in constant use for the transport of refuse to the dumps. This is done between the hours of six o'clock and one o'clock in the summer and between seven o'clock and two o'clock in the winter. The Danesmoor district scavenging is let out by contract. The movable ashbins with proper covering now number 348.

Sanitary Inspection.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is given overleaf.

Premises Controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

One lodging-house in King Street.

Schools. Sanitary Condition.

The Secondary Schools and the Elementary Schools are all provided with water-closets. Children in contact with infectious diseases are excluded from school.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

CLAY CROSS SANITARY DISTRICT, 1925.

Name of Inspector: W. T. LYNAM, A.R.S.I.

Area of District: 1467. Estimated no. of houses: 1863.

New houses erected in 1925: 7 (by private enterprise).

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

No. of Houses inspected under Section 17	90
No. Unfit for Habitation	1
Representations made to Local Authority as to Closing Orders...	1
Closing Orders made	1
Number Repaired without Closing Order	0
Number Repaired after Closing Order made ...	1
Number Closed...	1
Number Demolished	1
Number Repaired Voluntarily	0
Has a Scheme been prepared ?	No.

	Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector	Legal Notices served by local Authority	Nuisances abated with or without Notice
DRAINAGE.			
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe ...	0	0	0
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets & Drains	5	0	15
Drains Obstructed	30	0	86
CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.			
Defective Privies, Pail Closets & Ashpits (Not for Conversion) ...	4	0	18
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s ...	1	0	11
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s ...	0	0	0
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets ...	0	0	0
Defective Water Closets	9	0	13
Provision of additional Water Closets ...	0	0	31
Provision of Portable Ashbins	1	0	6
Dirty Closets	2	0	11
OTHER DEFECTS.			
Paving of Courts and Yards	6	0	17
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts ...	1	0	14
Sinks	2	0	2
Insufficient Ventilation	0	0	0
Windows	0	0	0
Dampness	0	0	0
Water in Cellars	5	0	11
Water Supply	12	0	20
Overcrowding	2	0	1
Foul Condition of Houses	3	0	4
Offensive Accumulations	4	0	4
Animals Improperly kept	1	0	1
Pigsties	1	0	2
Smoke Nuisance	0	0	0
Urinals	0	0	0
Nuisances not specified above... ...	3	0	6
Totals	92	0	273

	Number on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated with or without notice
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	28	10	0	0
Bakehouses	3	6	0	0
Slaughterhouses	6	23	0	0
Offensive Trades	0	0	0	0
Common Lodging-houses... ...	1	3	0	0
Totals ...	38	42	0	0

Infected Rooms Disinfected. Number : 194. Method : Formalin lamps.

Samples submitted for Examination—
Water : 0. Milk : 0. Sewage Effluents : 0.

Prosecutions, particulars of : 0.

Food seizures : 0.

Food voluntarily surrendered : 47 tinned foods, 97lbs. meat, 2 bags mussels

Other Action taken : An incinerator has been erected for the burning of fish offal, and is in use two or three days per week.

(*Signed*) **W. T. LYNAM.**

HOUSING.

In 1920—1921 the Council erected fifty-five houses towards the required number of ninety. Since then twenty-seven have been erected by private enterprise. The population has increased, so that the demand for houses is greater than ever. The house required is not of the parlour type, but should consist of a large living-room and scullery with three bedrooms above, the whole to be had at a rental within the means of a miner.

Overcrowding.

There are a large number of families living in lodgings; that is, sharing houses originally meant for one family.

Fitness of houses.

(a) A large number of houses are old and not in keeping with modern requirements.

(b) The chief defects are floors, roofs and ceilings; large common ashpits and privies. The yards would be improved by paving.

(c) The floors in certain houses have been damaged by chopping wood on the bricks, but apart from this not much can be attributed to the tenants. The owners remedy defects which are absolutely necessary.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) Total: 7.

(b) By private enterprise with loan from the Council: 7.

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Housing Regulations, 1910: 90

2 Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health: 1

3. Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation: 0.

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. (1) No formal notices were served.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of of formal notice: 0.

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close: 0.

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: 92.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice: 92.

C. (1) One representation was made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.

(2) One dwelling-house in respect of which Closing Orders were made.

(3) No houses were made fit in respect of which Closing Orders had been determined.

(4) One dwelling-house in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.

(5) One dwelling-house was demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk on sale is inspected and tested by the County Council. Bottled milk is supplied from the Clay Cross Company's dairy. The whole dairy is worked on hygeinic lines.

i. No action was taken as to tuberculous milk or cattle.
ii. The number of licences is 32.
iii. No licences were revoked or refused.

(b) Meat.

i. The Meat is regularly inspected and the Sanitary Inspector visits the houses at the time of slaughter.
ii. The Public Health Regulations 1924 (Meat) are complied with.
iii. There are no public slaughter-houses.

Private Slaughter-houses :	in 1920	in Jan., 1925	in Dec., 1925
Registered ...	1	1	1
Licensed ...	6	6	6
Totals ...	7	7	7

(c) Other Foods.

There are three bake-houses which are regularly inspected.

The refuse from fish shops is destroyed in an incinerator which is in use two or three days every week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Since the year 1920 we have had no serious epidemic except that of influenza in March, 1924, and fifty-two cases of smallpox in 1925. In 1921 seven cases of typhoid were notified; these were traced by the Ministry of Health to the eating of mussels. In 1923 there were three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum. Two of these had the vision unimpaired; the third case left the district and died.

There were three cases of encephalitis lethargica in 1924; one case, that of a baby sixteen months old, died. In the year 1925, two cases. In the autumn of 1924 two separate instances of smallpox cropped up; the first instance was that of a mother and baby, who contracted the disease in their lodgings at Tupton, and who left Tupton before they knew of the existence of smallpox in their lodging. All the contacts were vaccinated as far as possible. The next instance of smallpox was a young 'bus driver. His family gave every help to the authorities, keeping strict isolation. All contacts traceable were vaccinated.

In 1925 a boy returned from the Chesterfield Union and developed smallpox. He may have contracted smallpox at the Union, as a case was notified there. There were fifty-two cases in all, lasting from 20 April till 7 October, 1925.

Crowded districts were were inspected daily by the Sanitary Inspector, and the medical practitioners reported all suspicious symptoms. Finally Dr. Ash gave permission that the Health Visitor should devote all her time to the visiting of school absentees Excellent work was done by these daily visits. The Ministry sent down experts on two occasions. The people in Park Row, Long Rows and Clay Lane were especially helpful in being vaccinated. The cases were visited immediately on notification, and all members of the family and the inmates of the house were vaccinated.

The number of contacts vaccinated was 208, 155 being primary vaccinations, 53 being re-vaccinations. Out of the 52 cases of smallpox, 42 were unvaccinated, five had been vaccinated in infancy, and the remaining five were vaccinated too late to prevent the disease developing.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin.

Anti-diphtheretic serum is supplied free to all the medical practitioners by the Council.

Pathological & Bacteriological Specimens.

These are sent to the County laboratory.

The Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever have not been made use of.

School Intimations of Disease.

These are acted upon.

Mortality from Influenza: 8 deaths.

In cases of Cancer, the houses are disinfected after the death of the case, and the walls cleansed and re-papered.

Disinfection of Verminous Persons.

These cases are sent to Morton Hospital, where they receive treatment and stoving of their clothes.

Table of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1925.

Disease.	Total number of cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	52	46	0
Scarlet Fever ...	30	16	0
Diphtheria ...	3	1	1
Pneumonia ...	2	0	20
Erysipelas ...	4	0	0
Encephalitis ...	2	0	0
Chickenpox ...	46 (since date of notifying the disease, Aug. 11)	0	0

With regard to the table of notifiable diseases it will be seen that pneumonia has not been systematically notified, and with regard to the influence of overcrowding on home nursing it will be easily seen that unless a room is given up to the invalid, recovery is handicapped. The Chesterfield Union Infirmary is the only available institution for cases of pneumonia, and, though the treatment there is excellent, the prejudice against this is so great that the patients will not avail themselves of it.

Tuberculosis.

There were eleven new cases notified during the year, and eight deaths.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
5	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	4	4	2	1	4	2	1	1

AGE GROUPS OF THE CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Age Periods.	Smallpox.		Scarlet.		Diphtheria.		Encephalitis Lethargica.		Erysipelas.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0	1									
1 year	1				1					
2	2		1							
3		2	3	1						
4		3								
5	9	5	6	8		1	1			
10	6	3	1	2		1				
15	3	6	3	1			1			
20	3		3						1	
25		1								
35	2	1								1
45	3	1								1
65 and over										1
Totals ...	30	22	17	12	1	2	2	0	1	3